MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

STUDENT ID NO

MULTIMEDIA UNIVERSITY

FINAL EXAMINATION

TRIMESTER 1, 2016/2017

PEN 0045 – COMMUNICATIVE ENGLISH

(All sections / Groups)

11 OCTOBER 2016
9.00 AM – 11 AM

(2 Hours)

INSTRUCTIONS TO STUDENT

1. This question paper consists of **7 printed pages with 3 sections** only.
2. Answer **ALL** questions in Sections A, B and C.
3. Write **ALL** your answers in the answer booklet.

SECTION A: READING AND VOCABULARY [25 MARKS]

Instructions: Read the passage and answer the following questions.

The Creatures that Remember Chernobyl

1 Thirty years after the disaster, biologists have observed thriving wildlife in Chernobyl despite the existence of radiation released by the world's most **catastrophic** nuclear explosion. Wild boars invade towns near the abandoned Chernobyl in northern Ukraine. Feeling hungry, they travel in packs, **foraging** for food. They also break through fences and roam the roads, shutting down highway traffic. The presence of these animals recalls the memories of a tragedy which many seek to forget. Revisiting the site of the worst nuclear accident in human history is certainly not a desirable experience. In April 1986, the Chernobyl nuclear power plant experienced a meltdown. After 10 days of raging fires, a 2,600 square-kilometre area surrounding the plant site was declared an exclusion zone. Over a hundred thousand people were evacuated from the exclusion zone contaminated with radioactive toxins. Today, the radioactivity continues to cause birth defects and illnesses in Ukraine, apart from the fact that it also killed uncounted thousands through radiation-related illnesses after the incident.

2 In the three decades since, a wide range of animals have thrived in this non-human world where radiation remains 10 to 100 times higher than is safe for human occupancy. Rare species not seen in the region for hundreds of years have returned, including the Przewalski's horse, the European bison, the lynx and the Eurasian brown bear. The growth of animal populations has turned the zone into a wildlife sanctuary. *This* runs counter to previous hypotheses that long-term exposure to radiation would hit animal populations.

3 In fact, the radioactive boars which live in the zone become irradiated after eating plants that contain residual traces of radioactivity, including truffles, tubers and mushrooms that absorb high degrees of radioactive waste from the soil. This means that radioactive elements the disaster expelled remain in the wild boars, and the threat of the disaster still exists in the zone, but invisibly. In this area, the radioactive level of caesium-137 in the wild boars is six times the European Union limit for safe consumption of **game,** which is hunted by man for food.

4 The exclusion zone around Chernobyl is also known as the "zone of alienation" as humans are alienated from the area that may be safe only in 20,000 years. Although the zone is uninhabitable, in several deserted ghostly towns, there are still several hundred illegal settlers who choose to live in devastation. They are the last survivors of the tragedy who either refused to evacuate the area or secretly resettled in the zone. They remain fearless under the shadow of the desolate nuclear power plant, ignoring all the risks of radiation.

5 The continued presence of these settlers indicates the connections to home, and the loss of dear homes is a costly lesson to learn from the disaster. To take lessons seriously, humans, especially those who do not have any personal memory

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of Chernobyl incident, should perhaps pay more heed to disaster fictions. After World War II, Godzilla, a fictional monster empowered by nuclear radiation in the film *Godzilla*, reminded Japan and the rest of the world that radioactive material is more forceful and longer-living than humans can imagine. In the film *Them*, an early atomic-bomb test in New Mexico turns common ants into human-killing beasts. In it, a character, Dr. Harold Metford observes, "If man enters the atomic age, irradiated beasts will be empowered to reign over the earth."

6 As a modern species, humans hope to move forward from **calamities** like Chernobyl and Fukushima nuclear disasters, but the boars wandering in its wake carry our past along with them, and they live with the longevity of radiation. Even though the roaming animals in the zone are not as powerful as our imagined fictional creatures, in the long run, their irradiated bodies may cause disastrous effects, one of which is **maladies** related to radiation, such as leukemia and thyroid cancer.

7 In 2010, a radioactive rabbit was also found on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation in Washington state. The animal seems **innocuous** until one realises that it can in fact be harmful to mankind by breeding others with more potential carriers of the radioactivity. If there is one radioactive rabbit, then there are other animals out there, too. How many are there? As Dr. Metford says, nobody knows. The Hanford reactor was put out of service in 1988, but it left behind millions of tons of radioactive solid waste and liquid waste from its decades of producing plutonium. The waste is buried underground in pits and ponds where it has been forgotten, and radioactive rabbits are the result of sources of water contaminated by radioactive.

8 While scientists are alarmed at the changes that have taken place in the exclusion zone, some biologists marvel at the fascinating diversity of wildlife. Although the resurgence of wildlife in the zone is still not completely studied and understood, the phenomenon could be attributed to several developments in the area. For instance, the researchers who compared birds captured in higher radiation areas with those in lower radiation spots found that the birds from the higher radiation zones were adapted to the radioactive environment with correspondingly less genetic damage. In addition, according to Dr. Jim Smith, a professor of Environmental Science at the University of Portsmouth, without human occupation, the area is free of hunting, farming and forestry which are more damaging to wildlife than the damage done by radiation poison. However, he emphasises that this does not mean radiation is good for wildlife. He adds, "To avoid another tragedy of the same kind, humans should not believe that it remains safely buried and forgotten."

Adapted from Broglio, R. (April 2016). *The creatures that remember Chernobyl*. Retrieved from http://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2016/04/the-creatures-that-remember-chernobyl/479652/

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Part 1: Contextual Clues (5 marks)

Instructions: Based on the passage, provide a word or phrase that best expresses each of the following words.

Example:

Word	Meaning
catastrophic (line 3)	**disastrous**

a. foraging (line 4)

b. game (line 28)

c. calamities (line 46)

d. maladies (line 51)

e. innocuous (line 53)

Part 2: True-False Statements (5 marks)

Instructions: For each statement, write (T) if the statement is true and (F) if the statement is false.

a. The growth of wildlife in the exclusion zone shows that radioactivity is no longer a danger in the area.

b. The radiation level in the wild boars found in the exclusion zone has exceeded the the European Union's safe radiation limit.

c. The irradiated animals living in the exclusion zone could bring long term effects on humans' health.

d. The presence of one radioactive rabbit on the Hanford Nuclear Reservation shows the existence of other irradiated animals.

e. As the radioactive waste from the Hanford reactor is safely buried underground, it is no longer a threat.

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Part 3: Comprehension (15 marks)

Instructions: Read the passage above and answer all the following questions.

a. i. What was the tragedy that took place in northern Ukraine? (1 mark)

ii. Describe what happened immediately after the tragedy. (3 marks)

b. Why is the exclusion zone described as a wildlife sanctuary? (2 marks)

c. What does "This" in line 20 refer to? (1 mark)

d. Explain why the threat of radiation exists invisibly in the exclusion zone? (2 marks)

e. What is the main idea of paragraph 4? (1 mark)

f. i. Name two fictions from which humans should learn lessons. (1 mark)

ii. What are the lessons humans should learn from these fictions? (2 marks)

g. What are the possible causes of the thriving wildlife in the exclusion zone? (2 marks)

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SECTION B: GRAMMAR [15 MARKS]

Part 1: Subject Verb Agreement (5 marks)

Instructions: The following extract contains 5 errors on Subject-Verb Agreement. Identify the errors and correct them as shown in the example.

Example:

No.	Line	Error	Correction
0	1	is	are

Bhutan Celebrates Newborn Prince by Planting 108,000 Trees

1 King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck and Queen Jetsun Pema, who **is** wildly popular in the nation of 800,000, announced the birth of their first child in February 2016. Tens of thousands of citizens of Bhutan came together in March 2016 to welcome their newborn prince with Buddhist symbols by planting 108,000 trees, each sealed with a prayer for the heir to the throne. The Prime Minister, Tshering Tobgay, together with three of his ministers, were among the 100,000 volunteers who planted the trees across the country.

2 In Buddhism, trees are symbols of longevity, health, beauty and compassion. The number of saplings are also symbolic, as Buddhists believe each person is required to overcome 108 defilements in order to achieve enlightenment. The species of trees planted include teak, oak, dogwood and pine, depending on the altitude. To the people of Bhutan, each sapling encapsulates a prayer and a wish from the person who planted it to His Royal Highness the Prince.

3 Bhutan prizes environmental initiatives highly, and more than 60 per cent of the country are covered with trees because forest conservation is enshrined in a law which declares that at least 60 per cent of the country must always be under forest cover. Bhutan also has a unique policy of Gross National Happiness which balance economic growth with environmental conservation and the wellbeing of its people.

4 Now, many citizens in the Buddhist country stop during daily walks or drives to water some of the 108,000 saplings which also serves as a constant reminder to the people of Bhutan about the importance of royalty.

Adapted from Arora, V. (March 2016). *Bhutan celebrates newborn prince by planting 108,000 trees.* Retrieved from http://thediplomat.com/2016/03/bhutan-celebrates-newborn-prince-by-planting-108000-trees/

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Part 2: Verb Tenses (10 marks)

Instructions: Write the appropriate usage of tenses for the words in the brackets.

Example: A woman from California **(0) started (start)** sailing on the high seas 10 years ago for a one-of-a-kind adventure.

Many of us dream about escaping our everyday lives for something more exotic, such as sailing all alone for years. A woman from California **(0)** _____ **(start)** sailing on the high seas 10 years ago for a one-of-a-kind adventure. A 34-year-old bartender, Liz Clark, left her home in San Diego, California, when she (1) _____ (be) given a Cal 40 sailboat. For the last decade, Liz (2) _____ (enjoy) an idyllic life, travelling about 25,000 nautical miles.

After Liz graduated from university, she crossed paths with a retired professor, Dr. Arent H. Schuyler. At the time, Dr. Schuyler (3) _____ (look) for someone to sail his boat around the world. Dr. Schuyler just wanted to help someone else realise his or her dream, and Liz (4) _____ (grab) the chance. Liz spent three years preparing for her voyage and learning how to operate the sailboat. It was petrifying to leave her friends and family. Moreover, she did not know if she would be capable of captaining a boat and managing a trip without any help, but she knew she had to try or she would always regret it.

Since she set off in October 2005, Liz (5) _____ (travel) to a number of exotic destinations, including Mexico, Guatemala, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Galapagos Islands. Liz has documented her travels in a series of envy-inducing photographs. Liz (6) _____ (be) all alone on her seemingly endless voyage before she met Amelia. During one of her stops on land in June 2013, she adopted Amelia, a cat, which (7) _____ (become) her first mate since then.

Liz's daily routine includes adjusting sails and boat maintenance, surfing, swimming and sleeping under the stars. She also (8) _____ (post) photographs of herself with Amelia, whom she nicknamed "the Tropicat", in the far-flung and tropical locales they visit together.

In 2011, the man responsible for Liz's adventure, Dr. Schuyler, (9) _____ (die) at the age of 87. Liz says, "He never wanted to be on the boat. He just wanted to help me live my dream. That is how my blog originally started. I wanted him to be able to share my experiences." With no end to her adventure in sight, Liz plans to sail to Micronesia and head west, where she (10) _____ (continue) her journey around the world.

Adapted from Hutchinson, J. (April 2015). *Sailor wanted! Bartender spends 10 years sailing around the world after a generous benefactor gave her a yacht.* Retrieved from http://www.dailymail.co.uk/travel/travel_news/article-3062136/Sailors-wanted-Bartender-spends-10-YEARS-sailing-world-generous-benefactor-gave-yacht-s-looking-travel-partner.html#ixzz49X1nhShP

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SECTION C: WRITING [20 MARKS]

Instructions: Study the following visuals. Using only the information given, analyse the occupancy rates of deluxe rooms of three hotels. In your answer, you are to link the information presented in the two visuals. You should write **150 to 200 words**.

Figure 1: Occupancy Rates of Deluxe Rooms of Three Hotels from June to August 2015

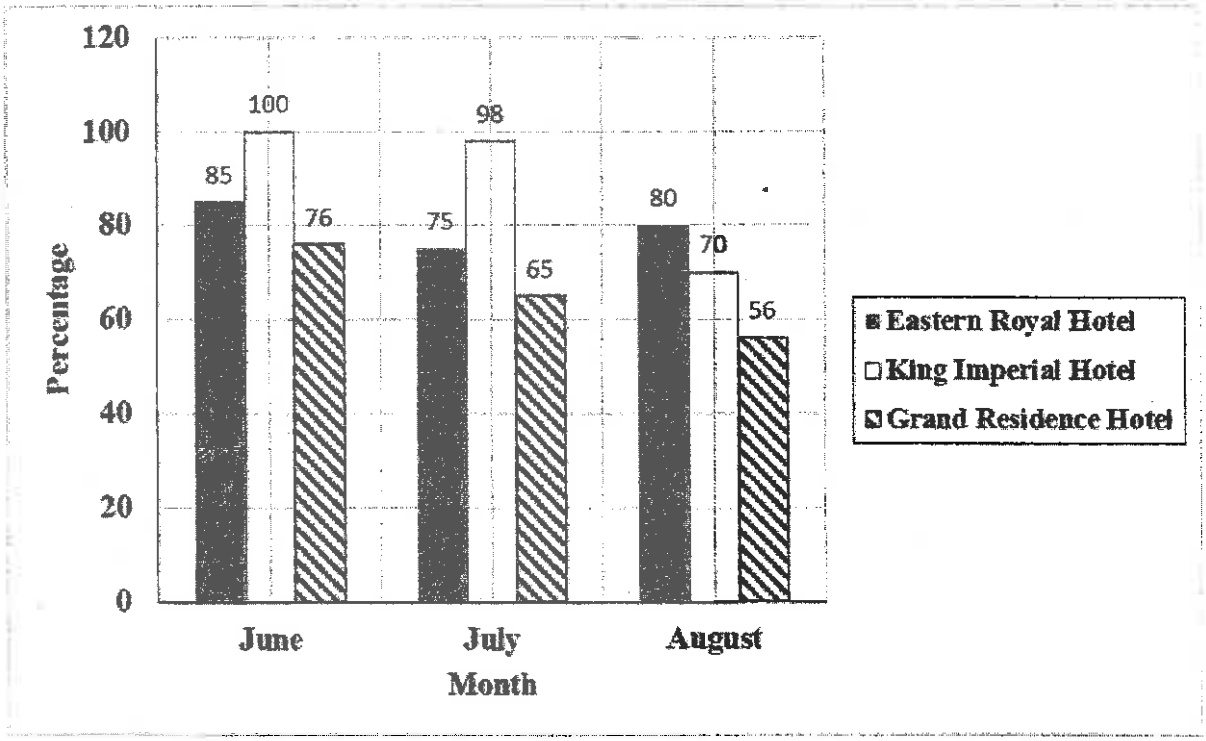

Figure 2: Rentals and Discount Rates of the Deluxe Room of Three Hotels from June to August 2015

Hotel	Rental per Night (RM)	Discount Rate (%)		
		June	July	August
Eastern Royal Hotel	350	30	20	30
King Imperial Hotel	300	40	35	-
Grand Residence Hotel	380	25	10	-

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